

# Planning and Construction Committee

## - JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING

*Monday, November 5, 2018 3:30 pm*

John Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant Street, Classroom 114

Joint Meeting - November 5, 2018

Present:

Planning and Construction: Amy McMahon, Susan Hollins, Jean Wall, John Andrews, Carole Collins

Public Safety: Butch Hawkins, Gary Longly

Also Present: Chief Strahan, Peter McGuiver, Melina Beudreau (the Recorder), Ed Berlin, Lindsay Rowe, member so the public

Concern is to get the Police Department off of High Street, so using the current Police location would not do this.

There is money for Pacheco Ross to do some studies:

1. Public Safety Complex at Beacon/Riddell
2. Fire Station with 2nd Phase for Police Station
3. Fire Station alone
4. Also, option for reduced fire station with 2nd "satellite" garage for fire trucks

Pacheco Ross has done work before and will take a few weeks to get a return. They will look at traffic. Trying to pay for one study, instead of multiple studies. Just focused on Town-Owned property, as past studies have looked at private land and then the land hasn't been for sale.

Concerns about the Beacon/Riddell St - the property is currently used as town storage. The Rec department was looking at this for a Skate Park. These may be hurdles moving forward. There are locations in town that could hold a storage shed.

There were concerns about contamination and drainage. These were explored with departments and the concerns are minimal - drainage has been addressed over there and contamination studies have been done.

Pacheco Ross already has the programming information for the departments. They'll look at all options. The Mayor is still exploring the options for funding this, including grants and low interest loans.

Need to continue to keep the momentum moving towards finding a way to address the fire and police needs.

The Fire Department is attached to its current building, however the operational needs just don't make this feasible. At the end of the day, the renovation of this property is just not possible.

The scope of the direction of the study will determine the cost of the feasibility study. There is still money that was appropriated for studies. Can we include neighborhood concerns in the feasibility study?

Some of the concerns are the Riddell Street entry/exit. If this were on Beacon Street, there are fewer residents and it's a busier street already.

As you want to put a fire station in the community in order to best serve the residents, there will probably be neighborhood concerns in any area.

The community needs buy-in and the departments need to be good neighbors. Once the community gets this, they try to offer all the private sites - but, this site is "free" and there's \$2.5 Million in grant money targeted to this site.

The hospital location is on a special power grid, which is the first area to be restored, so the location close to the hospital will help out the fire department

Motion: by John Andrews, second Susan Hollins:

In conjunction with the Fire Chief's extensive work on site, Planning and Construction recommends that a site study be completed on the Riddell Street Property, including complex, fire station, phased complex, and other possibilities. Vote: **Unanimous**

As part of the study, Pacheco Ross will do a presentation. This will need to be organized. The Chief will get an estimate of timing and will see if they can get a time. Ideally, the report will be out by the December Council meeting, however it's important to make sure the survey is thorough. A budget and construction costs are part of the study too.

Motion to adjourn - Amy/John - Vote: unanimous

Adjourn - 4:23 p.m.